

REMARKS

The Office Action dated February 1, 2007 asserts that the application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species:

Embodiment I, drawn to Fig. 1.

Embodiment II, drawn to Fig. 2.

In response Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-42 and 55 are generic to both Embodiment I and II, while claims 43-54 are directed to Embodiment II. The restriction requirement between Embodiment I and II is respectfully traversed.

In particular, Fig. 1 (Embodiment I), among other features, shows a daisy chained interconnect while, Fig. 2 (Embodiment II), shows a respective individual interconnect with the external controller.

Claims 1-42 and 55 are generic to both Embodiment I and Embodiment II. For instance, Claim 1 refers to, among other features, “a plurality of implantable sensing elements, each implantable sensing element of the plurality of implantable sensing element is operable through electrical communication with an external controller via an individual interconnect.” An individual interconnect can be used for daisy chaining each sensor to one another and it can also be used to connect each sensor to an external controller. Claim 2 – 25 are directly or indirectly dependant upon Claim 1 and are also generic.

Similarly, Claim 26 refers to, among other features, “a plurality of implantable sensing elements, each implantable sensing element of the plurality of implantable sensing elements operable through electrical communication with an external controller via an individual interconnect.” Like Claim 1 an individual interconnect can be used for daisy chaining each sensor to one another and it can also be used to connect each sensor to an external controller. Claim 27-41 are directly dependant upon claim 26 and are also generic.

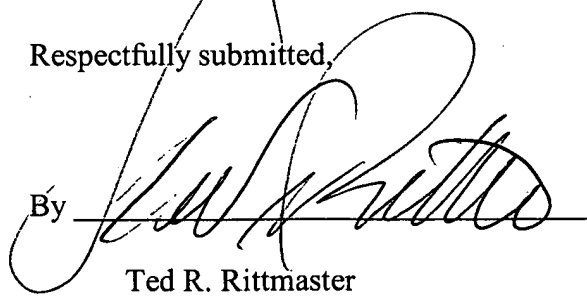
Claim 42 is also generic to both embodiments because it does not refer to any sensor connections or arrangement.

In view of the forgoing, applicant has provisionally elected Embodiment II, Claims 43 to 54 drawn to Fig. 1. Each of Claims 1-42 and 55 is either generic to or included in the elected Group. Applicant requests that the election requirement be withdrawn after reconsideration of the forgoing argument.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 50-0872. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0872.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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